# NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

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## DISEASES OF CATTLE.

SELECTED AND COMPILED FROM THE BEST AUTHORS, BY THE EDITOR.

*Foul in the Foot, or Hoof Ail.*

Dr. Peck, an English writer, has given the following account of this disorder and its treatment.

"*Symptoms.*—A hard crack first appears between the claws, or hoofs, attended with considerable inflammation; afterwards a fœtid and offensive matter is discharged, similar to that of the grease in horse's heels; sometimes it appears in the form of a large tumor upon the cornet, between the hair and the hoof, attended with violent pain and inflammation.

"*Treatment.*—Wash the part from all dirt, and if between the claws take a rope of a proper thickness, and chafe the part afflicted,* and afterwards dress the parts with the muriate of antimony [butter of antimony] or sulphuric acid [oil of vitriol.] Let the animal stand in a dry place for an hour, repeat the application every day. If the part be much affected, rub it with some stimulating ointment, and if the tumor be likely to suppurate, linseed poultices as oft as is necessary should be applied, and repeated till the inflammation has subsided; then dress the wound with lint and mild astringent ointment. Due regard must be paid to existing symptoms. A few doses of sodæ sulphas [glauber's salt] will cool the body and accelerate the cure."

Edward Skellett, Professor of the Veterinary art, an English writer of reputation, says that this disorder "proceeds from two causes; the one from accidents, and the other from a morbid state of the system. Its situation is betwixt the claws of the cow, either in the fore or hind feet, but more frequently in the former. It is always attended with a swelling, the discharge from which, when it breaks or cracks, has a very offensive smell.

The *accidental foul* proceeds from gravel, flints, bones, or any other hard substance getting between the claws, which produces great pain and inflammation. The first step to be taken for its cure is to remove the hard substance, and clean the wound out; then the following ointment is to be applied to the part, spread on tow, and bound on with cloth and string.

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|---|---|
| Soft soap | 1 lb. |
| Common turpentine | 1 lb. |

"Melt over a slow fire till the two articles are completely united. The dressings may be repeated two or three times, which never fails to complete a cure.

"The *joint foul* begins with great pain, attended with inflammation and swelling betwixt the claws, and even up to the fetlock joint. The claws are extended outwards from the swelling betwixt them, and the animal is very feverish. The attack of the disease is very sudden.

"In this case bleeding will be proper; after which, give a dose of Epsom salts; then apply a plaister of soft soap betwixt the claws. It must be repeated every two days till a large core come out, which is always the case in this disease before a cure can be completed. The wound may then be dressed with the following digestive ointment, in order to heal it.

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|---|---|
| Take of tar | 1 lb. |
| Common turpentine | 1 lb. |

"To be put into a pipkin over a slow fire till it is completely dissolved, then take it from the fire and add to it four ounces of spirits of turpentine, which should be stirred well together till it is incorporated."

This disorder, or something very similar, has been prevalent in the United States, and particularly in the State of Maine. A communication on the subject is published in the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository, Vol. iv, No. 4, page 348. In this it is said that the immediate occasion of the Hoof Ail "is a stoppage of the issue between the claws or hoofs, which exist in all ruminating animals, and which are very much like the issues so generally known in the back part of the fore legs of pigs; the stoppage of which produces disease, and eventually death unless remedied.

"The hoof ail indiscriminately attacks thin and fat cattle, and very considerable impressions are entertained that it is contagious; therefore till the contrary is proved, it is safer so to consider it. From a very careful comparison of cases (from memory only) it appears to affect cattle who are in a feverish state, from various exciting causes; as over work; sudden changes from hard work to rest, and higher feeding, (a practice very common with farmers after working their cattle hard all winter, as a preparation for their spring's work;) being out in a storm; or being driven much, and kept long in the mud. In cows and young cattle, it seems to take either those that are brought from worse keeping to better; or the finest and best cattle in the yard. But all these observations may be erroneous; for the disease often appears suddenly, without any apparent cause; affecting individuals of the same stock tied in different parts of the barn, and in entirely different cases as to condition, exposure, &c. &c. It however, very frequently goes through a whole stock, though it does not appear to follow in regular succession, according to proximity in the stable, or in the yoke. This may arise, either from contagion or the same exciting causes, operating on the whole. In short, it is a disease very terrible in its effects at times, and which does not appear to be understood. As very few cases of perfect recovery take place in a violent attack, and, as in all cases the recovery is very tedious, we should rather *prevent* than *cure*; for which end we must carefully watch for the symptoms, and without delay apply the remedies.

"*Symptoms.*—When an animal is at all lame, its foot should be very carefully felt. The first indication is usually an uncommon degree of warmth, and soft and puffed feel of the parts immediately connected with the slit between the hoof, either before or behind the foot, and generally above it. If in the hind foot, and not easily handled, a fulness may generally be perceived, by standing behind the animal and carefully comparing the appearance of the two feet, between the dew claws and the hoofs, (for it very rarely commences its attack on more than *one* foot.) In the fore foot it generally swells forward; and on taking up the foot, the slit between the hoofs will have the appearance of dryness, easily distinguishable to a person used to cattle; and the animal frequently licks the front part of the foot. Instances frequently occur of sudden and extreme lameness, without any appearance of heat or swelling in the foot; and these are often the worst cases; but one symptom rarely fails to accompany the disease, which is, extreme restlessness, and appearance of anguish, attended with loss of appetite and flesh; but without, in the least, affecting the brightness of the eye, and, perhaps, sometimes unnaturally increasing it; but the eye has a peculiar cast. As a general rule, it is safest to attribute all lameness of the foot, which cannot be traced to a sufficient cause, to the hoof ail. Lameness of the foot can generally be distinguished from that of the leg, hip, or shoulder, by making the animal step over a stick or rail, and carefully watching its motions.

"*Remedies.*—The foot should be carefully washed and cleansed, and thoroughly examined, to be sure that the lameness does not arise from a nail casually run into the foot, or a pinch in shoeing, or from a wound from a stump or other substance between the hoofs, (a case frequently occurring.) If no appearance occurs of any break in the skin, while the foot is still wet, apply, as nearly as may be, to the centre of the slit, between the hoofs, from one to three grains of corrosive sublimate (reduced to a fine powder) the dose to be proportioned to the size of the animal, and the violence of the attack.—Care must be used that the powder is put completely into this slit, for it is a very strong poison, and the animal, as soon as at liberty, will begin to lick the foot, if a sore one.* The moisture left by the washing, makes the powder adhere; and the effect is produced in a very short time. Some prefer mixing the powder with hog's lard, which answers; but is thought less powerful: it has one advantage, however, as being less dangerous to keep in a house (for no one takes salve inwardly.) Where corrosive sublimate cannot be obtained, any other violent stimulant may be applied. Common salt is often effectual in very slight attacks, but it is of the greatest importance to lose no time. The application is to be repeated once every twenty-four hours, till a cure is effected, or till the foot shows unequivocal signs of a gathering which will break. It is supposed that the corrosive sublimate, by stimulating the parts, removes the obstruction, and enables nature to resume the natural discharge from the issue, of a matter, which (as soon as pent up in the foot) causes inflammation and suppuration, and at last, forms an abscess, at all times very difficult to heal, and which, when large, *takes*

* This practice is condemned by other writers as cruel and unnecessary.

* Might not a rag or bit of leather be so fastened with a string as to prevent any danger of this sort?

*off one or both hoofs, which are never properly replaced.* It must, therefore, be considered as an object of the first importance to restore the secretion and discharge, without allowing a suppuration. This done, the cure is effected ; and, since the course has been followed, no bad case has occurred in a very considerable stock of cattle, and the men attending them are quite familiar with the cure. If, from want of attention, or the violence of the attack, the gathering is formed, and breaks, it must be treated like any other tedious ulcer, and without any violent or harsh measures. The animal should be kept quiet, fed well, and occasionally purged. As soon as the discharge has ceased, a salve of flower of zinc, and hog's lard appears to be the best dressing.

" It cannot be too strongly impressed on the minds of those who have the care of cattle that not a moment is to be lost; and that the corrosive sublimate produces no other inconvenience than pain for a few minutes, even if it should be applied in a case of lameness, which afterwards proves to have arisen from other causes.

" An account appeared last season, of the cure being effected by cutting off the point of the hoof with a chissel, till it bled considerably. Of the efficacy of this remedy, no opinion is given, as it has never been tried here ; but the impression is not favorable, as it must occasion temporary lameness, and, in unskilful hands, prove something more than temporary.

" All such barbarous modes of treatment as hair ropes drawn backwards and forwards between the hoofs ; hot irons ; cutting out the part affected, and pouring into the wound, so made, hot pitch and other ingredients ; scraping out the wound, and applying spirits of turpentine ; in short all remedies of torture, should be at once discarded, and a simple mode of ascertaining the cause, and then removing the evil in the most expeditious and humane manner be substituted.

" No inconvenience is known to occur from keeping an ox at work, if the lameness is not so great as to impair his condition ; and it generally yields to three or four applications in the foot where it began ; but frequently it must be followed round all the feet in succession."

We have been the more particular in our description of this disorder, and the remedies recommended, on account of its alleged frequency in the United States. If the simple and cheap remedies recommended by Dr. Skellett, viz. soft soap, common turpentine, tar, and spirits of turpentine will answer the purpose, attributed to them by that writer, the discovery will be highly valuable.

From Sinclair's Code of Agriculture.

*On the making of Watering Ponds.*

Various modes of making ponds have been adopted, with a view of simplifying the process, and lessening the expense ; but *the improved practice*, which, if followed, will be found to answer in almost any situation, in any country, is as follows :

Let a circle be marked on the ground sixty feet in diameter, more or less, as the person chooses, or the size of the pasture may require a supply of water, and if of that diameter, let it be hollowed out into the shape of a bason or bowl, to the depth of seven feet in the centre ; when the surface of this hollow has been raked smooth, let it be well beaten over, so as to reduce it into as even, uniform, and firm a surface as the nature of the ground will admit of ; on this, well fallen, skreened lime, must be uniformly spread, with a riddle, to the thickness of two or three inches ; the more porous or open the ground, the greater will be the quantity of lime required : this lime must then be slightly watered, to make it adhere firmly to its place, and great care must be taken, to spread it equally, so that no place may remain uncovered, as on the lime, depends more than any thing else, the success of the work. On this lime must be laid a bed of clay, to the thickness of about six inches, which being moistened sufficiently to render it ductile, is to be beaten with mallets or beetles into a compact solid body, capable of being trod upon without impression or injury. Great care is to be taken in laying on uniformly this mass of clay, and beating it into a compact body ; for which purpose, no more must be spread at a time upon the lime, than can undergo the beating, while it retains a proper temper or consistence for the purpose : after the whole is thus finished, it is gone over several times by the beaters, and sprinkled each time with water, and care is taken, to prevent any cracks being formed, which might entirely destroy the power of retention.

Pure brick-clay is not required, but any tenacious earth, that by beating will become a solid compact body, will answer the purpose. As soon as this operation has been duly performed, the whole surface of the clay is covered, to about the thickness of a foot, with broken chalk, fine gravel, or the chippings of mouldering stone, or limestone, to prevent any injury being done by the treading of the cattle. It is necessary to observe, that coarse stones must not be made use of, as they are liable to be displaced by the treading of cattle. They are also liable to be pressed into, or through the bed of clay, or to be rolled down to the bottom of the pond; under all which circumstances, the beds of clay and lime are liable to be broken, and the water consequently let out of the pond. Sometimes the clay is covered with sods, the grass side being laid downwards, as a support to the gravel, by which some saving of covering may be made ; or several inches thick of common earth is laid upon them, or upon the clay without the sods, by way of bed for the covering, where gravel, or such like materials, may be scarce, by which, something may be also saved.

After the clay has been well beaten, some workmen water the surface of it, and fold sheep or pigs, for a considerable time upon it ; the treading of which, is found to be serviceable in rendering it more compact.

Some people, instead of using slaked lime, have good mortar, made of lime and sand, well worked together, and cover the surface of the ground with it, to the thickness of about an inch ; this, if carefully done, is thought to be the most effectual mode of rendering the bottom retentive ; but the mortar is liable to crack before the clay gets bedded over it, which must be carefully guarded against. Ponds have been made, where a coat of mortar has also been spread over the surface of the clay, as well as under it, an approach perhaps as near as possible to perfection ; but where lime bears an high price, the expense is thus considerably augmented.

The best season for making these ponds, is thought to be in autumn, as they are then likely to be filled the soonest, and the least liable to crack before they are filled. Should the weather prove dry at the time they are finished, it is well to cover their surface with straw, or litter, to hinder them from cracking.

These ponds are usually made at the foot of some declivity, where, after heavy rains, a slight run of water may be conveyed into them, from some road, or other firm surface ; but many are placed without any such assistance for filling, or with very little, it being found, that the rain that falls upon their surface is, in general, sufficient for a supply, after they have been once filled. As it is desirable to get them filled as soon as possible after they are finished, snow is frequently collected and heaped upon them, if possible in large quantities, the first winter after they are finished for that purpose.

Ponds of this kind, are usually made by what may be called professional people ; men who go about for the purpose, and are chiefly or entirely engaged in it, and usually contract for the job. One of the diameter of sixty feet, and depth of six feet, may in most situations be executed for about 15*l.* ; one of forty-five feet by five feet for 10*l.* or 12*l.* ; but some allowance must be made for the different prices of lime, or the distance it may be necessary to convey it, as well as the clay, or the other materials for the work. A pond of sixty feet diameter, by six feet deep, will contain upwards of 700 hogsheads of water ; one of forty-five feet by five feet, near 400 hogsheads—a vast supply, when obtained at so small an expense.

Experience now of many years, and the universal use of ponds in this district, wherever wanted, have proved them, when carefully made, so effectually to retain water,—to preserve it of so good a quality, when not fouled by the treading of cattle,—and to be applicable to many situations, that they cannot be too strongly recommended in all high situations, where water may be much wanted, or in all other situations where the water may be of bad quality : they are equally applicable to our dry wolds, downs and heaths, which are without water, as to every fenny tract which has too much of it, but of a brackish or unwholesome quality.

From Aikin's Atheneum.

*Account of a Successful Experiment in making Soap, by the operation of Steam, instead of an open fire ; communicated by Count Rumford to the French National Institute.*

The steam was conveyed into the vessel, which contained the lie and other materials for the soap, by a pipe arising from a close boiler, and again descending into the vessel; the action of the steam in condensing in the cold lie, occasioned a succession of smart shocks, similar to blows of a hammer, which caused the whole apparatus to tremble, but which gradually subsided as the liquid became warm. Count Rumford supposes, that the beneficial action of the steam depends for the most part on the motion described, caused by it, and therefore proposes dividing the vessel into two parts by a horizontal partition of thin copper, and causing a slow current of cold water to pass through the lower division, and to let the steam into this lower part, when the upper became too hot to admit of a continuation of the strokes from the con-

densation of the stream; by which means the same motion being continued in the cold water, would be communicated to the hot liquid thro' the thin partition.

The soap made by the operation of the steam, required only six hours boiling, whereas sixty hours and more are necessary in the ordinary method of making soap.

From the Providence Journal.

In reading Simondi's Switzerland, I came across the following notice of a cotton mill which he saw at St. Gall, and which I have transcribed for your useful paper—it seems almost incredible that one ox should move so great a quantity of machinery; but whether true or not, it may suggest new ideas of the application of mechanic powers. B.

"We were taken to the most considerable cotton mill of the place, set in motion, not by water, or steam; but the labor of an ox, acting the part of a turn-spit:—the poor animal, shut up in a wheel thirty feet in diameter, walks on in self-defence, as the wheel being once in motion, he must go with it, which he does very deliberately, resting his feet on brackets, or pieces of boards nailed across the revolving door. There are three oxen working by turns, each two hours; they last at this rate, two or three years; the power is sufficient to move twenty nine mules of two hundred and sixteen spindles each (there were only twenty going when I saw it) with carding and cleaning machines in proportion."

From the American Farmer.

TO MAKE CIDER OIL.

This liquor is a very favorite drink with a large portion of our German citizens, and of an agreeable flavor, when diluted, to most persons. The following receipt has been communicated to the Editor, by a person well acquainted with the mode of compounding the liquor.

The cider must be well racked two or three times in clear weather. Four gallons of best apple-brandy are then to be added to each barrel of cider, if the cider be weak, but if it be strong, less will suffice. An infusion of Sassafras root, made by putting a piece of about the size of a finger, and chipped fine into a pint of water, improves the flavor. The barrel is then to be rolled.

In years when apples are abundant, cider even of a good quality brings only a small price; but by converting it into cider oil, it may be preserved until the following spring, and will then commonly sell well.

TO DRY PEACHES.

The following mode of drying peaches is adopted by Thomas Belanjee, of Egg Harbor, New-Jersey:

He has a small house with a stove in it, and drawers in the sides of the house, lathed at their bottoms. Each drawer will hold nearly half a bushel of peaches, which should be ripe, and not peeled, but cut in two and laid on the laths with their skins downwards so as to save the juice. On shoving the drawer in they are soon dried by the hot air of the stove and laid up. Peaches thus dried eat like raisins. With a paring machine, which may be had for a dollar or two, apples or pears may be pared, and sufficient quantity dried to keep a family in pies, and apple bread and milk, till apples come again. With a paring machine,* one person can pare for five or six cutters.

* An ingenious friend of ours, in Boston, promised to make us one of these machines, but we fear he has forgotten it.—Ed. Am. Farmer.

TO PRESERVE BACON SOUND AND SWEET THROUGH THE SUMMER.

*Dear Sir*—In the Farmer, volume 3, p. 139, you published a communication from Mr. J. W. Lincoln, of Worcester, recommending, that hams, after being smoked should be packed away *in oats*. I followed his advice last year, and really feel so much indebted to him for the hint, that I must thus publicly thank him; and for the benefit of my neighbors ask you to republish his letter. To give you the *best* proof of the beautiful state of preservation secured by this method, I send you a ham weighing $11\frac{3}{4}$ pounds; you will find it perfectly fresh, and full of essence—free from all sort of speck or blemish. Those practising this mode of preserving their bacon free from skippers or taint of any kind, should recollect, that the chest or cask, ought to be perfectly tight, and raised about six inches from the ground, and the oats packed in, quite tight. A ham of this size should be boiled $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours at least.

☞ We can seldom undertake to speak from experience about recipes, but in this case we can *vouch* for its accuracy, from reliance both on the word and judgment of both the writers. But it must not be expected that the oats will convert bad bacon into good; all that is promised is that this will *preserve* it *in statu quo*.—Ed. Am. Farmer.

From the New York Statesman.

NORTHERN COTTON.

*Messrs. Editors*—I planted some of your cotton seed last summer, and distributed it among my neighbors, who did the same. The result has demonstrated the fact, so much doubted twelve months ago, that cotton can be raised in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, (and I believe in Canada,) of as good quality as is produced in any part of the world. From the shortness of our summers, compared with the season in tropical climates, however, I presume the *quantity* which could be grown in this latitude, would be inferior to the crops in the southern States, and that it can never, therefore, be an object of *profitable* cultivation with us. It appears that frost, which stops the progress of vegetation, and puts an end to the further growth of the plant, does not prevent the bolls or pods already formed, from ripening to perfection. Of a sample that I planted, the arrival of frost, ice and snow, found the bolls of every size, from the smallest complete formation to their full growth; and since that time, during the inclemency of the winter, their contents, or pulp, have matured into perfect fibre, and exhibit the most beautiful cotton, of shorter staple, but probably of finer and softer texture, than the Sea Island itself, the smallest bolls appearing to furnish the finest staple, though of diminished quantity. Like Mr. Dunham's, covered with ice and snow, they have matured with equal certainty as the same species at midsummer. Thus the probability of its growth in our northern latitudes is perfectly established. Indeed I have heard of its cultivation in Connecticut, as a matter of curiosity, twenty years ago. From the information which has been given on this subject, it is probable that a number of gentlemen in this vicinity will plant a quantity of seed early the ensuing season, so as to try the experiment fully and fairly on a large scale, as to the practicability of its culture, and the ultimate profit of raising the article instead of importing it. I send you a number of bolls, taken from plants in this city, in February, two days ago, for the examination of connoisseurs in cotton. And I have no doubt, that before this day twelvemonth, the public will be in possession of complete and satisfactory information on the subject—a subject which has lately excited much interest in this country, but more, I understand, in France, where it is considered a desideratum to prevent the importation of the great quantities of that article required for the manufactories in that kingdom. C. H.

*Moths.*—To prevent moths from attacking woollen clothes, or worms from destroying books, place in the drawers or corners of the shelves some of the roots or blade of the Sweet Flag. A decoction of the same will prevent their attacking buffalo skins, by sprinkling it over them. This is not only effectual for the above mentioned purposes, but is a pleasant aromatic.

*Panada.*—Boil for not more than two minutes some slices or crumbs of bread, with a blade of mace in a quart of water; then take out the bread, and finely bruising it in a basin, mix as much water as will make it a proper consistence. Put in a bit of fresh butter, grate a little nutmeg, and sweeten it to the palate. If wine be required, though it is much best without, by no means boil it with the water and bread.—This is a delicate diet for a weak stomach.

The Portland Statesman gives the following description of a Threshing and Winnowing Machine, invented by Mr. Josiah Jaquith, of Brunswick, Me. "By this instrument, the process of threshing, sifting and winnowing grain of any kind, is performed *at one operation*. The work commences by laying the grain in stalk, on the feed table. This table is supposed, in common machines, to be four feet long, but, for the purpose of preventing an interruption of labor when only one person is employed, may be extended to any designed length. The grain thus placed, is carried under the flails, which are so equably and exactly applied that it is almost impossible for any part of the grain to escape unthreshed. When the grain is threshed, it passes into a sieve which separates it from fragments of stalk, &c. From the sieve it falls in front of a fan, set in motion by the same power, and is winnowed. By lessening the feed, and substituting a tight floor instead of an open one, the machine will answer for cleaning clover and other seeds."

Weeds are deadly foes to the farmer, but in the compost heap they become friends. They should be carefully eradicated and deposited in the compost heap before their seeds have matured lest they should be propagated by scattering the manure before the seeds have become completely rotten.

From the Mass. Agricultural Repository for January.

*On raising, feeding and fattening Cattle, also on the utility and comparative value of the cobs of Indian Corn when used with, or without the grain itself ground or broken.*

To the Trustees of the Mass. Agricultural Society.

GENTLEMEN,

In the first place I select my earliest and best calves to raise, I let them suck the cow twelve weeks, which is my general rule, eight weeks twice a day and in sufficient quantity to keep them in a growing state, but am careful not to let them get fat. Four weeks longer, once a day, the two last however are allowed to take but about half the quantity of the two first; I keep a supply of good hay at their command all the while, as they will begin to eat when only a few days old, and then turn them out into good feed, without giving them any grain or meal. If I am raising a Bull, Cow or Ox, I would avoid giving them meal or grain; especially the first or second years, as I would a pestilence. I begin with a creature so as rise upon the keeping.* In one instance, however, I have followed opposite plan, which tends to confirm me more in my belief. In April 1820, I had an uncommon heifer calf, which I set down for a premium calf; I knew very well what I had got to do to obtain it; viz. to let it take what milk it would through the season and learn it to eat meal, which I did and presented it at the Worcester Fair, and obtained the first premium. I then tried to sell the calf, but could not; I considered it fit for nothing but the butcher's knife, and in fact not fit for that, it was neither veal nor beef. I then took it from the cow and put it to better than my usual keeping, but it lost its flesh and has appered rather ordinary ever since, it appears to be crowded out of its natural shape. If I had reared the calf in my usual way I should have expected something extra from her, but I now do not. To return to my mode of increasing their keeping, I give them a little better hay the first winter than the second. I make it my care and attention that my cattle do not lose in the winter what they gained in the summer, which is too apt to be the case with some. I feed them as the weather varies, that is, in moderate weather they will not require so much, I endeavour to keep my barn tight and warm, I have witnessed with regret, farmers too often let their stocks of cattle remain out all day, through tempestuous stormy days in the winter, until they are chilled through, which must be very injurious, I take care that my cattle are sheltered from stormy days as much as possible. Fattening cattle is an employment which I like. I invariably aim to fat a creature as quick as I can. Every year since I commenced business for myself, which is fifteen, I have made one yoke of oxen good so as to command generally the highest market price; with almost all those which I have fatted, I go through with all my spring work then turn them to pasture; in the fall I lay a foundation for giving them meal with green stalks small ears of corn and vegetables of some kind, I begin to give meal about the first of December and drive them to market the latter part of January, they generally weigh from 25 to 28 hundred the yoke, and from 300 to 330 pound of tallow. I would refer to Mr. Abijah White of Watertown, and Messrs. Davis, Miles and Pierce of Brighton who have generally purchased my beef. I give my cattle what meal they will bear; after I begin, they are allowed an average of three pecks per day for each yoke; by thus doing they will eat but little hay, I turn them out into the yard to lie during the night having a shed to go under at their pleasure which I consider far better than to remain in the barn. The kind of meal I have used for seven years past, almost exclusively for provender, is corn and cobs cracked and ground together, which is the best provender I have ever made use of for fatting cattle.* The reason I consider the cob useful, is, it swells in the creature and keeps him in good order; in no one instance since I have fed with this meal have my cattle been out of order by being cloyed or scouring, they are at all times regular, but when I formerly fed with clear Indian or oats and Indian, it was not unfrequent, that their bowels would get out of order, and I have had considerable difficulty in regulating them again, they lose two or three days, sometimes a week. When this kind of provender was first introduced in this vicinity it had its opposition like almost all new things, the second year, if I mistake not, which I made use of it, I thought I would try an experiment, as follows, by feeding one ox with corn and oats ground, the other with corn and cobs, having a yoke of oxen so even matched that no one who viewed the cattle appeared satisfied which was the best, accordingly I fed them as above. The cob is computed to make a little more than a third, therefore I mixed the other with one third oats which was my former mode, I gave each ox an equal quantity at a time except that the one that had the corn and oats, some days became dainty, and would not eat his allowance, while the other kept a regular course, the allowance for both was little rising three pecks per day. When I took the cattle to market Mr. A. White bought them, they weighed about 26 hundred and a half, the one fed on corn and oats had 162 pounds of tallow, and weighed about half a hundred more; the one fed on corn and cobs had 163 pounds of tallow and Mr. White pronounced his beef half a dollar on the hundred better than that of the other mostly on account of the *color of the beef.*

In another instance I took a yoke of oxen, which had done all my work through the season up to the first of November 1818, on my farm which contains over one hundred acres. They were a good sort of cattle, about middling size, and no more than in good working order. I then put them to fatting upon the cob and corn meal; they were fed with nothing but hay, and the corn meal, I turned them in the month of February 1819. Mr. White purchased them, their weight was about twenty-four and a half hundred and had almost three hundred pounds of tallow. I have however fatted two creatures a little differently from what I have above described, one was a steer four years old the 10th of February 1821, the first of March following I began to give him this cob and corn meal. He had not, previous to this, ever been fed with any kind of meal, grain or roots, of any kind whatever. I gave him from four to six quarts a day of this meal and nothing else but good feed until the 27th of September, which day I drove him to the Cattle Show at Worcester, and they awarded me the first premium on beef, I then drove him to the Brighton Fair the same year and they awarded me one of the premiums there on beef; I sold him, his weight was 1509 pounds, had one hundred and fifty-four pounds of tallow. I have another steer four years old the 12th of April last, which I have treated in the same way the past season, I drove him to Worcester, the 25th of September of this year, and the trustees awarded me the second premium on beef. It has been remarked by some well informed Agriculturalists in this vicinity, that it is not on record at any other Cattle Show in this state, that the highest premium for beef has been carried by four year old steers, since the Worcester Agricultural Society was formed. There have been four anniversaries, in which I have taken the premiums for the best fatted ox, for the second best do. for the best milch cow, for the best two year old steer, for the best heifer from one to three years old, and for the best heifer calf, *all* of my own raising, and wholly of the native breed except the heifer calf, which is a cross with DENTON. I have now three creatures preparing for the Brighton market, which I contemplate driving the first of January, viz. the above mentioned steer* will weigh between fifteen and sixteen hundred slaughtered, as he weighed two thousand alive in September last, and a cow that will probably weigh between eleven and twelve hundred slaughtered, and a three year old heifer nearly nine hundred, *all* of my own raising and fatting. Many of my friends are endeavoring to persuade me to keep the above steer another season for the Brighton Fair, at present I am undetermined. Before I close I would make a few remarks on corn and cobs. My aged father who still survives, upwards of eighty years of age, who has formerly raised considerable excellent beef from this farm for the Boston market, since he has witnessed the saving of labor, and seen the effects in fatting cattle, and hogs, has often been heard to say if he had known this thing when he first commenced business in the world, it would have saved him two or three hundred dollars. For my hogs, I mix oats with it, and it answers a good purpose, it gets them along as fast as any provender I ever made use of, I see no material difference. It makes excellent fodder for a horse and is coming very much in fashion for that use. My faith is so great in the thing I would carry my corn six miles to mill to be ground in this manner even if I could get it ground in the common way within half a mile. I submit these remarks for your disposal and consideration.

ASA RICE, JR.

*Shrewsbury, 20th November, 1822.*

* We presume this means, so as to increase the quantity and quality of the food. Ed.

* We are by no means satisfied with the *reasons* assigned by Mr. Rice. The facts are what most concern us. Editor.

* We conjecture Mr. Rice means the one which obtained the premium at Worcester.

## *On Raising Corn.*

To the Trustees of the Mass. Agricultural Society.

GENTLEMEN,

There is a high barren hill on my farm, which has been improved for a pasture ever since the

first settlement of the town, it had the appearance of making very good ploughing land, but in consequence of the steepness of the hill on every side, which rendered transportation so difficult, and supposing it bad husbandry to try to raise Indian corn without plenty of manure, one generation after another has passed off and suffered the hill to remain dormant. The present occupant being of the fourth generation of the same family in possession of the farm, hit upon an experiment of raising Indian corn with the aid of Plaster of Paris alone. I went on to the hill with my team in the month of September 1820, and ploughed as I supposed about two acres, and found it an excellent soil, a deep and good colored loam, free from stone, left it in that situation until the following spring, at which time I first gave it a harrowing, then cross ploughed and harrowed it again which left it in a fine state for planting. My neighbors began enquiring what I was about to do on the hill; I told them my plan; they said it was impossible, such a thing could not be done to advantage, that I should lose all my labor, but I was resolved to persevere in the experiment. I accordingly furrowed it in my usual way about a common pace asunder, dropped the seed, threw a common table spoonful of plaster into the hill, then covered it with earth which was all the manuring it had, except a slight quantity of ashes at the first time of hoeing. It pushed forward with greater rapidity through the season than my other corn where I manured very high, and at harvest time it appeared superior to any corn I had. Several of my neighbors kindly offered to assist me in harvesting and measuring the corn to know the result, we found by exact measurement there were ninety and a half bushels of shelled corn of an excellent quality, and by actual survey, we found there was one acre three quarters and twenty-seven rods of land, making almost forty-eight bushels to the acre; it was supposed to be the greatest quantity to the acre raised in the town, the last season, (it will be recollected the season for corn was not so good as the present.) The quantity of plaster it took, was about four hundred weight. The whole labor bestowed on the field exclusive of the harvesting was performed by one man and two small boys in fourteen days and one half. I presented this statement to the Worcester Agricultural Society, at their December meeting, and they awarded me a handsome premium and highly complimented me for my novel experiment. It was generally supposed that the strength of the land was exhausted, that it would not produce any thing farther unless it be very highly manured, which caused me to extend the experiment. I accordingly planted the same piece the present season, in the same manner, except adding a little more plaster, say a quarter more to the hill.

The same gentlemen who assisted me the last season in measuring the corn assisted me again, and we found by a careful and exact measurement there were one hundred and two bushels lacking two quarts, making over fifty-three bushels per acre. There are perhaps eight or ten acres on the top of the hill adjoining that I ploughed, which is so level, that it is very convenient working on it, which induces me the next season to sow this piece with oats and grass seed, with a good coat of plaster, and plough up another piece and manage it in the same way.

I now present the doings of both seasons to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society for their consideration.

ASA RICE, Jr.
HENRY HOWE.

*Shrewsbury, Nov.* 12, 1822.

NOTE. We have taken the needful liberty of curtailing Mr. Rice's letter. We hope without offence, and we are sure we have not lessened its perspicuity or usefulness. Editor.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

From a general view of the evidence and arguments presented to the public by the Hon. Mr. Pickering, on the best time for "*felling trees for timber*," he appears to have established the important fact, beyond a reasonable doubt, that white oak timber, felled, or stripped in barking time, will be stronger, more compact, and nearly twice as durable as timber felled in the winter season. The experiments of Mr. Poor, also, go far in confirming what Mr. Pickering had proved.

Can there be a doubt but the same means which produced this extraordinary strength, compactness, and consequent durability in oak, would be productive of similar effects in pine, and every other sort of timber? We can hardly imagine a discovery of more importance to every section of our country, than the certainty that by merely felling their timber at a particular season of the year, their bridges, fences and buildings of every kind, would last nearly double the usual time.

On a moderate calculation, it would cost the inhabitants of Massachusetts more than six millions of dollars to renew all the shingles on the roofs of their buildings. The shingles in use are chiefly made of white pine, felled in the winter, and are estimated on an average, to last about twenty-five years. Hence the expense of the annual wear and waste is no less than $250,000. If shingles made from white pine stripped of its bark in June, would become so compact, and unpassable to the wet, as to last many years longer, the saving to the inhabitants of Massachusetts alone, must be no less than $250,000 for every year beyond the time they usually last.

If any gentlemen conveniently situated, will take on themselves the trouble of making a fair experiment of the durability of pine shingles made from trees stripped of their bark in June, compared with common shingles made from trees felled in the winter, and publish the result, they will certainly merit the gratitude of their country.

The highly respectable Mr. Cooper, late of New Jersey, is said to have "pronounced with great confidence, that oak and hickory trees felled when their sap was vigorously flowing, would not be attacked by worms, producing what is called powder post." The cause of this exemption from the depredation of worms, is probably the same as that of its extra-durability.

Sir Humphrey Davy tells us in his "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry," that "Mr. Knight examined the alburnum in different poles of oak in the same forest: of which some had been felled in winter, and others in summer; and he always found most soluble matter in the wood, felled in the winter, *and its specific gravity was likewise greater.*"* This being the case with the *alburnum*, or sappy part of the wood, there can be no doubt of a somewhat similar difference in the heart part of the wood.—The foregoing premises being admitted, we may conclude that timber felled in winter while replete with inspissated sap, after being thoroughly seasoned, will, of consequence be found easier to work, because more porous, or spongy than that felled in summer, while the sap is both scanty and limpid: but the wood of the latter soon becomes more hard, strong, and compact, and consequently more durable: and will never be bored by worms, because it contains no nourishment for them. In timber felled in the winter, after being thoroughly seasoned, the essence or saccharine matter of the sap, still remains in it, a nutritious and palatable food for various kinds of worms, both on land and under water; and these worms evidently gain their living as they progress, from the wood they reduce to powder. The vessels of the winter-felled timber, so replete with sap when felled, are believed to continue open, and, like a sponge remain susceptible of imbibing water whenever exposed, which inevitably produces fermentation and gradual decay.

Speaking of timber stripped of its bark in June, Sir H. Davy says:—"The reason of the superiority of this timber is, that the concrete sap is expended in the spring in the sprouting of the leaf; and the circulation being destroyed, it is not formed anew; and the wood having its pores free from saccharine matter, is less liable to undergo fermentation from the action of the moisture and air." From a view of the testimony and argument adduced, in connection with the mass of evidence before the public, we may fairly conclude that the true cause of the extraordinary durability of timber stripped, or felled in barking time is this, that when seasoned it becomes so compact as to be impervious to the wet: and also, that it remains secure from the depredation of worms, because it contains no saccharine matter for them to subsist upon.

J. KENRICK.

* The subscriber is taking effectual measures for ascertaining the exact difference between the specific gravity of various kinds of green timber, in the month of February, and the latter end of June. The result will probably be published.

*Ants.*—The Rev. Wm. Williamson, of Westmere, near Canterbury, in England, communicated an expeditious method of destroying Ants, which may be easily adopted where those insects become troublesome, or are injurious to plants. He stops the holes at the bottom of small pots, and places them inverted on the spot frequented by these insects, which soon take possession of the interior of the pots, and may then be easily destroyed therein, by hot water. The ground whereon the pots are placed, should be kept rather moist. There are two sorts of ants which are found in forcing frames, the red and the black; the former are easily got rid of by introducing the large black ant of the woods, which will leave the frames when the red ants are destroyed, but they are not able to overcome the latter: for the removal of these, the above remedy has been efficacious.

*To turn Wine into Vinegar in one hour.*—Make a thin round cake of the best rye flour and the

strongest vinegar. Bake it quite dry in the oven; then pound it into a fine powder, with which and vinegar make another cake, and bake it as formerly. Reiterate this operation three or four times; then hang the last made cake quite hot in a cask of wine, and it will turn the whole into vinegar in less than an hour.

Texus Wood, or yew tree, thrown into wine, will soon change it to vinegar. Red Beet has the same tendency.

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*To increase the strength of Vinegar.*—Boil two quarts of good vinegar till it evaporates to one. Put it in a vessel, and set it in the sun for a week; then to one part add six of weak or indifferent vinegar, and it will make it strong and agreeable.

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*To revive old writings.*—Boil gall nuts in wine, then with a sponge dipt in the liquor, pass it on the lines of the old writings, when it will appear as fresh as if newly done.

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*To prevent wine tasting of the cask.*—Stick a lemon full of cloves, and hang it at the bung hole, over the wine for three or four days, during which the air must be prevented from getting into the cask.

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*To clarify new wine.*—Hang a bag full of fine and thin beech shavings at the bung-hole for two or three days. If the wine is red, it may be made white by adding a quart of clear whey to the cask.

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*To restore turned wine.*—Half a pound rock alum in powder; the same quantity of sugar of roses; 8 pounds of honey, and 1 quart of good wine, mixed well together, and then put into a cask of wine, stirring while it is poured in. Leave the bung out for one day; then replace it, and two or three days after the wine will be clear.

A handful of parsley put into a bag, and hung for a week in the bung-hole of a cask of wine, will correct any bad flavor it may have.

A bag of leek seed, or of the leaves and twisters of the vine, put into a cask of wine to infuse, will restore it if it is sour or sharp.

A handful of steel filings, and another of salt, tied up in a bag, and placed on the bung, will prevent wine from being hurt by thunder.

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*Employment of Iodine for the Relief of Cancer.*—We have heard that Iodine, in the form of Alcoholic solution, duly diluted with simple syrup, has been used with success in one of the Paris Hospitals, allaying the pain and increase of a cancerous rumor in the breast; but we have been unable to obtain from our correspondent any satisfactory particulars of the case; we, therfore, merely throw out the rumor for the consideration of our medico-chirurgical readers.—*Journal of the Royal Institution, No. 27.*

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*Railer Silenced.*—A woman stopped a divine in the streets of the metropolis, with this salution: "There is no truth in the land sir! there is no truth in the land." "Then do you not speak truth, good woman," replied the clergyman. "O yes, I do," returned she hastily. "Then there *is* truth in the land," rejoined he as quickly.

# THE FARMER.

*BOSTON:—SATURDAY, FEB.* 15, 1823.

## THE AMERICAN ORCHADIST.

We have perused with much pleasure, and we hope not without profit, a work entitled "*The American Orchadist, or a Practical Treatise on the Culture and Management of Apple and other Fruit Trees, with Observations on the Diseases to which they are liable, and their Remedies. To which is added the most approved Method of Managing and Preserving Cider. Compiled from the latest and most approved Authorities, and adapted to the use of American Farmers.* By JAMES THACHER, M. D. *Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Massachusetts Medical Society, &c. &c.*" Boston: published by Joseph W. Ingraham; pp. 226, 8 vo. price $1,25. [The work may be purchased at any of the principal Bookstores in Boston.]

This work has been recommended by the Officers of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, who have *unanimously* affixed their signatures, as individuals, to the following testimony of their approbation.

"We have perused, at the request of Dr. Thacher, his Treatise on the Culture of Fruit Trees, and the Art of Making Cider; and although we cannot hope that our opinions will have any great weight with the public, yet as the author is desirous that we should express them, we have no hesitation in saying, that it appears to us an excellent compendium of all that has been written on the subject—comprising, within a moderate compass, the result of the observations of the experienced cultivators of Europe, and of this country—with many original suggestions of his own—and we believe that such a work will be of great value to those who wish to obtain a knowledge of this branch of agriculture, but who cannot have access to the original sources, from which, with great labor, and, as we believe, good judgment, this compilation has been formed."

We have copied this recommendation, at length, because it has that weight which attaches to the opinions of gentlemen, who are eminent for practical, as well as scientific knowledge of agriculture and horticulture; and because the merits of the work could in no other words be more concisely, and at the same time more fully expressed. We believe that any person who has even no more than half a dozen fruit trees to cultivate, would *save money* by buying this book and making himself acquainted with its contents; and every *house-keeper* who would wish to make the most of one of the cheapest, as well as one of the best gifts of Providence to mankind, would find his or her account in becoming possessed of this compendium of valuable information relative to fruit and fruit trees. A knowledge of the medical properties of apples alone [see Orchardist p. 12] is worth to house-keepers five times the price of this book. As an article of diet, when properly chosen and judiciously cooked, they yield perhaps to no vegetable substance, except the potatoe. Sweet apples, in particular, are a wholesome, cheap and very palatable food for man and beast. The liberal use of fruit counteracts that debilitating, degrading and demoralizing hankering after spirituous liquors, which foreigners, (we fear with some truth,) have declared to be a national characteristic of the American people. But we must refer to Mr. Thacher's book for the various uses of fruit (some of which, we dare say, many good people have never thought of,) as an article of commerce, as well as domestic consumption.

We believe that nothing can prevent the general circulation of Dr. Thacher's American Orchadist, except that kind of *economy* (falsely so called) which by "withholding more than is meet tendeth to poverty;" or a prejudice, which we fear is too general, against every kind of information which comes in the shape of a *book*, or appears in print. But what is this book knowledge, which some farmers seem to think worse than profound ignorance? In agriculture, it consists of facts and observations, derived from experience and reason, and recorded first in writing, and then printed. Nobody objects to acquiring the rules of arithmetic, geometry, surveying, and the precepts of morality and religion, from books. And why may not the rules of agriculture, gardening, and those in particular which have reference to the management of fruit trees, be set down in black and white, and sent to the press? If a farmer knows, better than the book can tell him, how to manage with regard to any particular point or matter set forth in the book, let him make use of his *own* knowledge, in preference to that in the book. The book only *advises*, it does not *dictate*. It furnishes, at a cheap rate, materials for the farmer's own mind to work upon. Pope says,

"*What can we reason but from what we know.*"

And what can we know if we know nothing excepting what we have done ourselves, seen other's do, or heard our neighbors talk of, in comparison to what we may know by having the experience of ages presented to our view in a *book?* Besides, if a farmer knows better than a book teaches, if he is a genuine patriot and well wisher to mankind, he will in some way communicate his knowledge to the author, or some editor of a newspaper, in order to have the mistakes in the book corrected against another edition. In short, there can be nothing said against *book knowledge* in agriculture, which may not as well be said against books relating to law, physic, or even divinity, which are (at least now-a-days) all written by fallible men.

But it is time to conclude our dissertation on book knowledge, and this notice, with a quotation from the work before us.

"It is a remarkable fact that the first planters bequeathed to their posterity a greater number of orchards, in proportion to their population, than are now to be found in the old colony; and it is no less notorious that the children have substituted a poisonous liquor for the salutary beverage, which almost exclusively cheered the hearts of their virtuous ancestors.—The views of men are often materially affected through mere indolence of temper, no less than through the cloud of prejudice. Averse to the labor of reading and inquiry, they adhere pertinaciously to the routine of their predecessors, and treat with equal contempt the lessons of experience, and all suggestions of improvement. It is not, however, desirable that former modes of practice in husbandry should be abandoned until it shall be incontestably proved, that a system more adapted to our circumstances, and in all respects of superior utility, can be founded on the surest basis. It is not to be required of our farmers to subject themselves to the expense and uncertainty of novel experiments; but he who possesses capital and leisure, and who, in the spirit of investigation, shall put in execution a hundred new projects, although in ten only shall he be successful in the acquisition of useful knowledge, will be entitled to public praise and respect. These pages contain no speculative or visionary projects, nor recommend any untried experiments. Although a portion of information is derived from European authors, no inconsiderable part of it has been collected from the practical experiments and observations of our own countrymen. There is, therefore, no part of this production but what may be adopted as applicable to our climate, and calculated to promote the interests of the cultivators of our soil. The knowledge respecting the proper management of fruit trees is contained in numerous volumes, and in incidental papers, published in periodical works. My object has been to collate and embrace all the principal circumstances relative to the subject, and condense the whole into a small compass, that shall be accessible both to the pecuniary means of all, and to the intellectual powers of the most ordinary capacity. The authorities to which I am chiefly in-

debted, are the several encyclopedias, Forsyth on Fruit Trees, and the valuable periodical publications of your society, and various other similar productions. If, in a few instances, it shall appear that I have employed borrowed language without marks of quotation, my apology is, that I have copied from minutes collected at various times, without reference to the source whence derived; not that I would wittingly pilfer the cultivated fruit of others, and impose it upon my guests as the result of my own industry."

*COMMUNICATION.*

Mr. Kenrick appears to have misapprehended Mr. Pickering's statements in regard to the worms which prey on timber. It is well known that the sea-worm eats hard pine and white pine and white oak—and doubtless most other kinds of wood—placed or used in sea-water; and hickory was mentioned as one exception; but without any reference to the season of the year when felled. It was Mr. Joseph Cooper's assertion, which Mr. Pickering recited, that white oak and hickory poles intended to be split for hoops, should always be cut when the sap was running freely, because then they would not be infested with the worms which produce what is called "powder-post." And this assertion of Mr. Cooper's was confirmed by a distinguished mill-wright in Pennsylvania, who, for the same reason, directs hickory, designed for the cogs of wheels, to be cut when the sap is running freely in the spring. This powder-post worm has no relation to the worm which is bred in sea-water.

☞In Mr. Pickering's address published in our last, page 221, 1st col. 18th line from bottom, for "*sown* in with them," read "*ploughed* in," &c.

## FARMER SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CONGRESS.——SENATE.—A bill has passed the Senate for appropriating $1000 for the erection of a monument over the tomb of the late Vice President Gerry. A bill has also passed to be engrossed appropriating $10,000 for the purchase of apartments for the accommodation of the U. S. Circuit Court in Columbia District. A resolution was offered by Mr. Smith, of Md. and agreed to, that the committee of Finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of admitting the silver coins of Mexico as a currency in the United States at their true value. A new bill was reported on the 4th inst. for abolishing imprisonment for debt. A bill to punish frauds committed on the Departments of Government was read twice and referred.

HOUSE.—A committee on the subject made a report acquitting Messrs. Gales & Seaton of all blame imputed to them for having omitted to print some parts of certain documents sent from the Department of the Treasury. The Committee likewise stated that they could obtain no satisfactory information with regard to the omission complained of. This report was ordered to lie on the table. A bill supplementary to the existing acts to provide for revolutionary pensioners passed the House and was sent to the Senate for concurrence. The new Tariff bill has been debated at great length, but no decision was had at the date of our last accounts.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE closed its session on the 11th inst. Among the most important public acts which have been passed, are an act to apportion and assess a tax of $75,000—an act authorizing the Governor, with advice of Council, to appoint an agent, or agents, for advocating, at Washington, the claims of Massachusetts upon the United States for the expenditures for militia services during the late war—an act in addition to the acts for regulating, training, and governing the Militia, which provides that the militia shall be called out only twice a year, but the officers, in addition, are to appear three times for drill—an act in addition to several acts now in force regulating the limits of prison-yards and the discharge of poor debtors now in prison. This provides that the prison limits in Suffolk county shall be co-extensive with Ward No. 5, as now defined, and in all other counties in the State not beyond fifty rods from the jail. It provides, also, that all persons who do not apply for a discharge from imprisonment within ninety days from the time of their commitment, shall be put into close confinement and there kept until discharged by due course of law. The thanks of the Senate were presented to the Hon. John Phillips, President of the Senate, and those of the House to the Hon. Levi Lincoln, Speaker of the House, and appropriate answers were returned by each.

FOREIGN.—By an arrival at New York on the 9th inst. London and Liverpool papers have been received from the 19th to the 30th Dec. These give rumors of meditated hostilities between France and Spain. The French monarch, however, appears to be disposed to maintain peace between the two countries. But the other members of the Holy Alliance, particularly the Emperor Alexander, seem determined to interfere with the internal concerns of Spain, and force the Cortes to restore the ancient order of things. The internal situation of Spain is said to be very deplorable. The remnants of the army of the Faith have formed themselves into bands, which harass the troops of Mina. The recruiting of the Spanish armies is proceeding with vigor, and the manufacturing of arms of all descriptions is going on with great energy.

An article from Madrid, professing to be official, states, that an alliance offensive and defensive, has been concluded between Spain and Portugal, under which, the latter is to furnish 8,000 troops to the Spaniards, and the force is to be increased as occasion may require.

The affairs of the Greeks are said to be, on the whole, prosperous. Mr. Canning, the British Minister, it is said has sent a declaration to the Porte, that the Grand Seignior must render the Greeks independent, or England must take them under her protection. There have been some changes in the Turkish ministry, which threaten a war with Russia.

Canaris, a celebrated Greek Captain, with two fire ships on the 10th of Nov. at 7 o'clock in the evening, made an attack upon the Turkish fleet, and burnt the Admiral's ship with such rapidity, that out of the whole crew, not more than 20 or 30 escaped; two frigates were likewise consumed. This captain, in the excess of his ardor to hasten the explosion of the fire ship, took up burning coals with his hands, which he threw upon the fire ship, and his hands were severely burnt. The Greeks have declared a number of ports in the Mediterranean in a state of blockade, and the English commanders have ordered the declaration to be respected.

DOMESTIC.—The important question of the right of a state to grant the exclusive privilege of steam boat navigation upon its waters is to be argued before the Supreme Court of the U. S. sitting at Washington.

The *Life of James Otis*, by Wm. Tudor, Esq. has just issued from the press of Messrs. Wells & Lilly, of this city. The work is highly spoken of by adequate judges, and is said to be well written and to contain much valuable information.

At the Municipal Court in this city, on Wednesday last, Edward P. Perley was sentenced to five days solitary imprisonment, and five years hard labor in the State Prison.

A store occupied by Messrs. Heywood & Fisher, No. 4, Central-street, Boston, was forcibly entered on the night of the 8th inst. and a large quantity of goods was stolen therefrom.

On Friday morning last, the Woollen Factory at Northampton, belonging to J. & C. Cook, was destroyed by fire, with all its contents. The amount of loss is about 12,000 dollars, and there was no insurance.

*American Iron.*—The Bennington (Vt.) Gazette assures us that an extensive establishment is in successful operation in that place for the manufacture of iron; and that the pigs are pronounced by competent judges to be equal, if not superior to any iron made in the U. States. A vein of soft chrystalized and semi-transparent stone has likewise been discovered in that town, which has been found to be more useful in fluxing iron in the furnace, than any other ingredient that has ever been tried.

*The Pioneers*, a new novel from the pen of the celebrated author of "The Spy," has recently been published in New York. The work sold with a rapidity unprecedented in the annals of American literature. We have not seen the work, but judging from pretty numerous extracts, which we have seen, we should believe the book fully merits the rapid sale which it has met with.

A young man by the name of Tompkins, who lived in Ottawa District, U. C. lately set out, in the morning, to travel through a forest with a loaded Traineau and four children of one of his brothers. The weather changing to a storm, and his horse becoming tired, he left the children with the horse, to seek assistance at the nearest habitation. On the return of the party, the three youngest, who were boys, were found frozen to death, and the eldest, a girl, ten years of age, was so much frozen that the loss of her feet was apprehended.

Two persons, named Reuben Craft and Abraham Mead, were found frozen to death at Redmill, Delaware county, N. Y. It is thought that they got lost in the night, in attempting to go through a thick wood o about three miles in extent.

On the 25th of January, as Mr. Peter Demarest, of Newfoundland, N. J. was fixing a flint in his gun, it accidentally went off, and the contents entered the side of his wife. With a solitary exclamation—"Peter, you have hurt me," she fell and immediately expired. This fatal accident has so deeply affected the mind of the wretched husband, that it was feared he would be deprived of his reason.

A cow of the Bakewell breed, belonging to Widow Sarah Hoit, of Sandwich, N. H. on the 14th January, brought a bull calf, which was very handsome, well proportioned, and weighed the same day 142 pounds.—*N. H. Patriot.*

A sugar house in Love-lane, New York, owned by Mr. Henry Willett, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 25th ult. together with the stock amounting to upwards of $6000.

## PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

| | | FROM | | TO | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | D. | C. | D. | C. |
| ASHES, pot, 1st qual. | ton. | 145 | 00 | 148 | 00 |
| pearl do. | | 155 | 00 | 157 | 50 |
| BEANS, white, | bush | | 90 | 1 | 00 |
| BEEF, mess, 200 cwt. | bbl. | 9 | 50 | 10 | 00 |
| cargo, No. 1. | | 8 | 50 | 9 | 00 |
| " No. 2. | | 7 | 00 | 7 | 50 |
| BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual. | lb. | | 14 | | 15 |
| " 2d qual. | | | 12 | | 13 |
| small kegs, family, | | | 16 | | 17 |
| CHEESE, new milk | | | 7 | | 9 |
| FLAX | | | 8 | | 9 |
| FLAX SEED | bush | 1 | 00 | 1 | 10 |
| FLOUR, Baltimore, superfine, | bbl. | 7 | 25 | 7 | 50 |
| Genessee | | 7 | 50 | | |
| Rye, best | | 4 | 25 | 4 | 50 |
| GRAIN, Rye | bush | | 85 | | 90 |
| Corn | | | 72 | | 75 |
| Barley | | | 65 | | 70 |
| Oats | | | 45 | | 48 |
| HOGS' LARD, 1st sort | lb. | | 9 | | 10 |
| HOPS, No. 1, | | | 11 | | 13 |
| LIME, | cask | 1 | 25 | 1 | 50 |
| OIL, Linseed, American | gal. | | 65 | | 70 |
| PLAISTER PARIS | ton. | 3 | 00 | 3 | 50 |
| PORK, Navy Mess | bbl. | 12 | 00 | 12 | 50 |
| Bone Middlings | | 14 | 50 | 15 | 00 |
| Cargo, No. 1, | | 12 | 00 | 12 | 50 |
| Cargo, No. 2, | | 11 | 00 | 11 | 50 |
| SEEDS, Herd's Grass | bush | 2 | 00 | 2 | 25 |
| Clover | lb. | | 8 | | 9 |
| WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed | | | 65 | | 75 |
| do. do. unwashed | | | 60 | | 65 |
| do. 3-4 washed | | | 50 | | 54 |
| do. 1-2 do. | | | 46 | | 48 |
| Native do. | | | 37 | | 40 |
| Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort | | | 58 | | 60 |
| do. Spinning, 1st sort | | | 50 | | |
| *PROVISION MARKET.* | | | | | |
| BEEF, best pieces | lb. | | 8 | | 10 |
| PORK, fresh | | | 5 | | 6 |
| VEAL, | | | 7 | | 8 |
| MUTTON, | | | 3 | | 7 |
| POULTRY, | | | 7 | | 9 |
| BUTTER, keg & tub | | | 16 | | 17 |
| lump, best | | | 20 | | 23 |
| EGGS, | doz. | | 23 | | 25 |
| MEAL, Rye, | bush | | 90 | | |
| Indian, | | | 80 | | |
| POTATOES, | | | 37 | | |
| CIDER, liquor, | bbl. | 1 | 50 | | |
| HAY, best, | ton. | 22 | 00 | 24 | 00 |

### *THE SLEEP OF THE SLUGGARD.*

BY T. G. FESSENDEN.

O list to an indolent lump of live lumber,
Whom slothfulness binds with invisible bands,
"A little more sleep, and a little more slumber,
A little more folding together the hands.

"I've a villainous cold—and my head—how it aches!
The north wind is blowing, and stings like a hornet,
And as to this rising as soon as day breaks,
'Tis a vile vulgar habit, and gentlefolks scorn it.

"I'm none of those wretches who labor for bread
Through foul or fair weather, whatever may hap;
I mean to enjoy both my table and bed,
And so I'll turn over and take 'tother nap.

"I've money enough, and can live at my ease,
I cannot be caught in necessity's trap,
I'll sleep every day, till the next, if I please,
And so I'll turn over and take 'tother nap."

His heavy, hydropical carcass he turns,
And sinks in uneasy, intemperate rest,
Till dim in his bosom the lamp of life burns,
While snorting with night-mare, and plethora prest.

What horrible visions his bed hover o'er,
The phantoms of spleen, and the blue devils dire!
Like Gorgons and Hydras of fabulous lore,
And red dragons vomiting rivers of fire!

Now clings to the side of a prominent steep,
O'er a rough, roaring cataract hangs by a hair,
Now suddenly sinks in a bottomless deep,
And starts, half awake, with a shriek of despair.

Thus rolls, like a porpoise, o'er billows of down,
Grows big as a mammoth, and fat as a seal,
Lives a plague to his friends, or a charge to the town,
And dies to make worms a most plentiful meal.

Ye sons of Columbia, shun the syren of sloth,
For if you submit to her leaden control,
You'll find, when too late, like a venomous moth,
She eats up the substance, and poisons the soul.

If the wizard of indolence takes you in hand,
Quick break from his grasp, or you're quickly undone,
Your limbs will be lithe as a wickapy* wand,
And your sinews be soften'd, like wax in the sun.

**Wickapy is the popular name for a shrub, which is remarkably flexible.*

WIT.

Of those who claim it, more than half have none,
And half of those who have it are undone.

*Natural History.*—A traveller was talking of having seen, in some foreign country, bed bugs, so large and powerful, that two of them would drain a man's blood in a night. Sir John Doyle, to whom this was addressed, replied, "My good sir, we have the same animals in Ireland, but they are known by another name. We call them *humbugs*."

*The difference between long-tailed, and short-tailed horses.*—The following singular advertisement was painted in large letters on a board, placed on the side of a field, in the neighborhood of Greenwich, Eng.

"Good grass for horses. Long tails, three shillings and sixpence per week; short tails, two shillings and sixpence per week." The difference in the charge was made because the *long tails* can whisk off the flies, and eat at their leisure, while the short tails are running about from morning till night.

He that does not give his son a trade or a profession, learns him to be a knave, and perhaps a thief. This, more especially holds good as respects the children of the poor. Poor children that are brought up neither to a trade, nor any regular occupation, are laid under a sort of necessity to become rogues for a livelihood.

There is a labor of the mind as well as of the body, and some employ themselves very usefully to society, who do but little with their hands. But the labor of the body, if not excessive, strengthens the mind, and those who do not labor from necessity, should labor for health.

From the American Daily Advertiser.

MR. POULSON—Seeing an account of some microscopic animals, found in *pepper*, *water*, &c. in your paper a few days ago, I take the liberty of adding some observations, extracted from different authors concerning this minute part of the creation. Parts of *insects*, *scales of fish*, *animal* and *vegetable infusions*, are very interesting objects for microscopic observation. The illustrious naturalist, Swammerdam, had a more perfect apparatus than any one of the age in which he lived. His apparatus, I think, is now in the Royal Society, and it is said to have about 300 different magnifiers; he manufactured most of his utensils himself. His "chief art," says Mr. Samonnelle, "consisted in manufacturing scissors of exquisite fineness, with which he was able to dissect the smallest insects; and the intestines of bees." I shall commence by drawing the reader's attention to certain small vermiform animals, found in vinegar, which may sometimes be discovered even by the naked eye. These are interesting, and are always to be had without either expense or trouble. Animals, almost exactly like them, may be found in paste, when kept until sour; and by keeping the surface of the paste continually moistened, they may be preserved for almost any length of time. The next kind are minute animals, of various forms, found in an infusion of hay. These are always to be had, as every one has it in his power to obtain them, by placing some hay in a vessel of water, and letting it remain exposed to the sun's heat until a pellicle be found on the surface, in which myriads of these animals may be found. An innumerable quantity of animals, so small as to require the aid of a microscope, may be found in sea water. All of those who have witnessed that beautiful phenomena, of the sea being luminous, may not know that this appearance is owing to small jelly-like bodies, which are phosphorescent, or have a luminous property: by the assistance of the microscope, these animals are found to possess a mouth, stomach and intestines; but their extreme minuteness renders their dissection and examination very difficult. In the water of ponds and ditches, and all stagnant water, animalculæ are found in abundance. Those small insects, &c. which inhabit pools and standing waters, may be procured by means of a net, made sufficiently open to suffer the water, but not the insects, to escape. The mud must be brought up from the bottom, and in it many interesting animals are found, which may be picked out and put into a phial of clean water; by this means, they may be kept alive. In fact, there is scarcely any part of the creation which does not afford an extensive field for microscopic inquiry. W.

From the Village Record.

A distant correspondent has sent us quite a curiosity; a LOVE LETTER; not one of your modern, whining, crying and blubbering epistles, talking of flames, broken hearts, and dying, and all that, but a good old fashioned letter such as our proud spirited grand mothers used to write to swains when faithless. Now-a-days, forsooth, if a lover leaves his own mistress for a new one he likes better, the melancholy, broken-hearted dame brings in her action for something like a thousand or two dollars, and solaces herself for the loss of a lover's person in the hope of a good portion of his wealth. ELIZABETH MATTHEWS was a girl of spirit, an honor to Beverly, and a praise to old Massachusetts. Such women were fit to become the mothers of soldiers—I'll warrant it, if the truth could be known, that she afterwards married an officer, at least as high in commission as an Ensign.—But the letter. It is directed

"To Mr. Michael Brown
in Exeter.
These with care."

No proof is necessary to convince us it is a genuine original letter. It carries with it intrinsic and irresistible evidence that it is what it purports to be. Here it is.

"BEVERLY, March ye 21, 1777.

"*Mr. Michael Brown*,

"SIR—I once more take an opportunity to write you, to let you know I am well, through the goodness of God, and can live without your company—but pray don't get published the third time. I should be glad if you would come and get your clothes, for I don't want no concern with them—for I hope that you will take care not to promise any young lady more than you intend to perform; for I'd have you consider that God can see further than Exeter—although you thought you did me a great injury to go and leave me, I never thought so; for I'm very well contented with your absence, and beg God to keep you there if you like it. So no more at present—but I remain a well-wisher to all the true hearts—and a curse to all false ones.

ELIZABETH MATTHEWS."

Nicholas Rowe, the poet, one day went to pay his court to the lord treasurer Oxford, who asked him if he understood Spanish well? He answered "No:" but thinking that his lordship might intend to send him into Spain on some honorable commission, he presently added, "that he did not doubt but he could shortly be able both to understand and to speak it." The earl approving what he said, Rowe took his leave; and, retiring a few weeks to learn the language, waited on the earl to acquaint him with it.—His lordship asking him "if he was sure he understood it thoroughly?" and Rowe affirming that he did, "how happy are you Mr. Rowe," said the earl, "that you can have the pleasure of reading and understanding the history of Don Quixote in the original."

An eminent Grocer Company in Dublin announce in the newspapers in that city, that they have whiskey for sale *which was drank by his Majesty while in Ireland.*